

A LEVEL TRANSITION WORK

A Level Music

Specification

Edexcel Music

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html>

Course Overview

Appraisal (40%) Examined at the end of the course

Students will study selected excerpts of the following set works:

Vocal Music

- J. S. Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg,
- Mozart, The Magic Flute:
- Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge: Nos. 1, 3 and 5

Instrumental Music

- Vivaldi, Concerto in D minor, Op. 3 No. 11
- Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1
- Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique: Movement I

Music for Film

- Danny Elfman, Batman Returns:
- Rachel Portman, The Duchess:
- Bernard Herrmann, Psycho:

Popular Music and Jazz

- Courtney Pine, Back in the Day:
- Kate Bush, Hounds of Love:
- Beatles, Revolver:

Fusions ● Debussy, Estampes: Nos. 1 and 2

- Familia Valera Miranda, Caña Quema:
- Anoushka Shankar, Breathing under water:

New Directions

- Cage, Three Dances for two prepared pianos: No. 1
- Kaija Saariaho, Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics
- Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring:

Students are also expected to have explore wider listening of pieces which are related to the six areas

Composition (30%) course work

One free composition which must relate to one of the areas of study

One Brief composition which assesses technique – NHGS students will study Bach Choral

Performance (30%)

Once recital (performed in front of an audience) lasting a minimum of 8 minutes

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Recommended Reading / Revision

There are some very good overview resources on the Edexcel website

A level Music Study Guide by Chris Gill is good as a support to learning in class

Transition Work for A level Music

Obviously keep practicing/ involving yourself in performing wherever possible.

Composition

Make sure that you are familiar with a piece of music software that produces scores. Suggest that you download musescore 4 onto your computer (it's free)

Write a theme and variation with a difference!

- 1) Choose a well-known melody – this could be a Christmas carol or a nursery rhyme.
(you can usually find the notes for this on the internet!)
- 2) Explore different ways of varying this through either ;
 - a) Exploring the manipulation of texture.
 - b) Exploring harmony
 - c) Developing melody
 - d) Use of instrumentation

This will be something that we will continue to look at within the first few weeks of composition.

Appraisal

Choose a piece of film music to base this work on (do not choose one from the set work list or one that you have studied as part of your GCSE)

For each create a spider diagram/mind map which explores the following elements of music:

Instrumentation

Texture

Tonality

Tempo

Dynamics

Consider **changes** in all these areas and consider the **impact** that this has on the piece

Suggestion - Listen to some BBC proms performances (BBC Radio 3)